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Message Text

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FOR: IOR/MEDIA REACTION; IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TW
SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY. PRESS PROMINENTLY FRONTPAGED NEWS REPORTS CONGRESSIONAL-WHITE HOUSE COMPROMISE ENDING CAMBODIAN BOMBING AUGUST 15. EDITORIALS LAUDED NIXON FOR VETOING EARLIER CONGRESSIONAL ACTION BUT COMPLAINED THAT AUGUST 15 DEADLINE WOULD UNDERMINE PHNOM PENH'S SURVIVAL CHANCES. END SUMMARY.

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS JULY 2: "... WITHOUT AIR SUPPORT, THE KHMER REPUBLIC'S CHANCES OF SURVIVAL ARE SLIM. THE U.S. CONGRESS REGRETABLY SEEMS NOT TO CARE. PRESIDENT NIXON MAY HAVE ONE ACE LEFT IN HIS HAND. THE PURPOSE OF THE SIX-WEEK CONTINUATION OF U.S. BOMBINGS COULD BE TO PROVIDE THE TIME TO PLAN AND ARRANGE FOR SOUTH VIETNAM TO TAKE OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE AIR SUPPORT EFFORT IN CAMBODIA..."

3. OFFICIAL NEW LIFE DAILY JULY 2: "... AUGUST 15
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IS ONLY SIX WEEKS AWAY. AS EACH DAY PASSES, THE HOPE

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THAT PROPS THE FIGHTING MORALE OF THE KHMER PEOPLE DIMS. THE KHMER WOULD ONLY BE WEAKENED IF CEASEFIRE COULD NOT BE REACHED BY THAT TIME. AND WHAT COULD AMERICA DO THEN?... FIVE YEARS AGO, WASHINGTON STARTED THE PEACE TALKS IN PARIS, AND USED BOMBING HALTS AND TROOP WITHDRAWALS, WHICH ARE EQUIVALENT TO TYING ONE'S OWN HANDS, IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS YEAR'S CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AND A NEW PEACE TREATY. BUT A JUST AND LASTING PEACE HAS NOT BEEN REALIZED IN VIETNAM. NOW, WASHINGTON IS AGAIN USING THE SAME PLAN ON CAMBODIA. IT IS PREDICTABLE THAT PEACE AND REHABILIATION CANNOT BE REALIZED IN CAMBODIA (THIS WAY)..."

4. PRIVATELY-OWNED TA HUA EVENING NEWS JUNE 30:
"... THE DETERMINED MOVE OF PRESIDENT NIXON (VETO) WOULD SURELY HAVE GREAT EFFECT ON CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM... THIS BOLD AND WISE ACTION HAS NOT ONLY HELPED STABLIZE THE VIETNAM AND KHMER SITUATION, BUT ALSO MADE SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS AND OTHER COUNTRIES REALIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES STILL HONORS ITS FOREIGN COMMITMENTS AND CONTINUES TO BE A GREAT NATION WITH WORLD RESPONSIBILITY ON ITS SHOULDERS..."

5. PRIVATELY-OWNED MIN TSU EVENING NEWS JUNE 30:
"... PRESIDENT NIXON'S VETO IS A SWIFT AND APPLAUSEWORTHY MOVE... THE WAR IN CAMBODIA IS A CONTEST OF PATIENCE AND ENDURANCE WITH THE FINAL VICTORY GOING TO THE ONE WHO ENDURES LONGER. IF THE UNITED STATES CANNOT PERSIST FOR THE LAST FIVE MINUTES, THEN ALL THE THINGS IT HAS DONE IN THE PAST WILL BE RUINED AND THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA WILL TURN FROM BAD TO WORSE..."
CLARKE

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